

House Insurance Committee Chairman Pete Lund and members of the House Insurance Committee

Re: SB 975 – Conscientious Objector Bill

The Hospice and Palliative Care Association of Michigan, representing hospice Providers and employers, must express opposition to Senate Bill 975 in its current form.

HPCAM's Members already have, individual and collectively, sufficient protocols for addressing the types of conflicts the bill would seek to address and believe that codification of a uniform solution for “conscientious objection” is redundant, intrusive and excessive.

In addition, HPCAM Members are concerned about the explicit provision for civil penalties in the event of a violation since we believe it would certainly increase litigation (and therefore the cost of doing business) and create a shift away from our members' focus of delivering quality end-of-life care.

Finally, we are concerned that the bill could allow insurers, as opposed to families in consultation with health professionals, to determine the most appropriate end of life care – care which is highly personal and individual - for that patient.

For these reasons, HPCAM opposes SB 975 and urges the House Insurance Committee to not send it to the floor for a vote.